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09/939,105	08/24/2001	Bijan Treister	52637-0029	3365

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EXAMINER

WALSH, JOHN B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2151

DATE MAILED: 02/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/939,105	Applicant(s) TREISTER ET AL.	
	Examiner John B. Walsh	Art Unit 2151	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 November 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/26/05, 10/17/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-4, 7-19 and 22-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,745,034 to Wang et al.

As concerns claim 1, a method for assigning functions between participants in a communications arrangement comprising a plurality of participants, the method comprising the steps of: assigning, to a first participant from the plurality of participants, one or more functions to be performed by the first participant (serving communication station, column 3, lines 6-10); prior to a failure of the first participant that prevents the first participant from performing any of the one or more functions assigned to the first participant, designating a second participant (targeted communication station, column 4, lines 28-34) from the plurality of participants to perform the one or more functions if any of one or more handoff criteria are satisfied; the first participant communicating with the second participant to indicate that the second participant has been designated to perform the one or more functions if any of the one or more handoff criteria are satisfied (col. 6, lines 58-65; col. 8, lines 8-10; col. 8, lines 24-26); and in response to any of the one or more handoff criteria being satisfied, assigning the one or more functions to the second participant (column 3, lines 11-23).

As concerns claim 2, the method as recited in claim 1, further comprising unassigning the one or more functions from the first participant (the first serving communication station is unassigned after handoff such that the targeted communication station now becomes the serving communication station).

As concerns claim 3, the method as recited in claim 1, further comprising prior to a failure of the second participant, designating a third participant (column 2, lines 11-13) from the plurality of participants to perform the one or more functions if any of one or more handoff criteria are satisfied (column 5, lines 60-column 6, line 10); and in response to any of the one or more handoff criteria being satisfied, assigning the one or more functions to the third participant, and unassigning the one or more functions from the second participant (the second serving communication station is unassigned after handoff such that the targeted communication station, 3rd participant, now becomes the serving communication station).

As concerns claim 4, the method as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more functions include initiating and controlling communications between the plurality of participants (column 5, line 60-column 6, line 4; initiates and controls handoff).

As concerns claims 7 and 22, wherein each participant from the plurality of participants communicates with other participants during a particular time range (column 5, lines 62-66).

As concerns claims 8 and 23, wherein the communications arrangement is a wireless communications arrangement and the plurality of participants is a plurality of wireless devices (column 1, lines 49-51).

As concerns claims 9 and 24, wherein the one or more handoff criteria include a request (column 4, line 10) from the first participant.

As concerns claims 10 and 25, wherein the one or more handoff criteria include the first participant not communicating within a specified amount of time (column 9, lines 1-8).

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As concerns claims 11 and 26, wherein the one or more handoff criteria include a failure of the first participant (column 7, line 63-column 8, line 4).

As concerns claims 12 and 27, wherein the one or more handoff criteria include the first participant being out of range (column 3, lines 24-28, also power levels may drop limiting the range of the participant, meets a threshold inducing a handoff to be performed) of one or more other participants from the plurality of participants.

As concerns claims 13 and 28, wherein: the first participant is a master participant (serving station), the second participant is a slave participant (target station) prior to being assigned to perform the one or more functions, and the second participant is an associate master participant after being designated to perform the one or more functions if any of the one or more handoff criteria are satisfied (target station becomes serving station after handoff).

As concerns claims 14 and 29, wherein the second participant is designated by the first participant (column 4, lines 28-35).

As concerns claims 15 and 30, the method as recited in claim 1, wherein the second participant is designated by one or more participants from the plurality of participants (column 4, lines 28-35, second or targeted, designated by serving station, which is another participant).

As concerns claim 16, a computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for assigning functions between participants in a communications arrangement, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of: assigning, to a first participant from the plurality of participants, one or more functions to be performed by the first participant (serving communication station, column 3, lines 6-10); prior to a failure of the first participant that prevents the first participant from performing any of the one or more functions assigned

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to the first participant, designating a second participant from the plurality of participants to perform the one or more functions if any of one or more handoff criteria are satisfied (targeted communication station, column 4, lines 28-34); the first participant communicating with the second participant to indicate that the second participant has been designated to perform the one or more functions if any one of the one or more handoff criteria are satisfied (col 6, lines 58-65, col 8, lines 8-10, col 8, lines 24-26) and in response to any of the one or more handoff criteria being satisfied, assigning the one or more functions to the second participant (column 3, lines 11-23).

As concerns claim 17, the computer-readable medium as recited in claim 16, further comprising one or more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors (inherent for the communication system to have processors), cause the one or more processors to unassign (the first serving communication station is unassigned after handoff such that the targeted communication station now becomes the serving communication station) the one or more functions from the first participant.

As concerns claim 18, the computer-readable medium as recited in claim 16, further comprising one or more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to prior to a failure of the second participant, designating a third participant (column 2, lines 11-13) from the plurality of participants to perform the one or more functions if any of one or more handoff criteria are satisfied; and in response to any of the one or more handoff criteria being satisfied, assigning the one or more functions to the third participant, and unassigning the one or more functions from the second participant (the second serving communication station is unassigned after handoff such that the targeted communication station, 3rd participant, now becomes the serving communication station).

As concerns claim 19, the computer-readable medium as recited in claim 16, wherein the one or

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more functions include initiating and controlling communications between the plurality of participants (column 5, line 60-column 6, line 4, initiates and controls handoff).

As concerns claim 31, a communications device (column 1, lines 49-51) comprising: an interface configured to receive data from a plurality of communications devices (inherent for communication system to have an interface for receiving, i.e. a receiver, column 1, lines 48-60) and to transmit data (transmitter) to other communications devices (column 1, lines 48-60); and a mechanism communicatively coupled to the interface and configured to: perform one or more functions (serving communication station, column 3, lines 6-10), and prior to a failure of the communications device that prevents the communications device from performing any of the one or more functions, designate a particular communications device from the plurality of communications devices to perform the one or more functions if any of a set of handover criteria are satisfied (column 3, lines 11-23); and the communications device communicating with the particular communications device to indicate that the particular communications device has been designated to perform the one or more functions if any one of the one or more handoff criteria are satisfied (col. 6, lines 58-65; col. 8, lines 8-10; col. 8, lines 24-26).

As concerns claim 32, the communications device as recited in claim 31, wherein the one or more functions include initiating and controlling communications between the plurality of communications devices (column 5, line 60-column 6, line 4, initiates and controls handoff).

As concerns claim 33, the communications device as recited in claim 31, wherein the communications device is a wireless communications device and the plurality of communications device is a plurality of mobile communications devices (column 1, lines 49-51).

As concerns claim 34, the communications device as recited in claim 31, wherein the one or more handoff criteria include a request (column 4, line 10) from the communications device.

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As concerns claim 35, the communications device as recited in claim 31, wherein the one or more handoff criteria include a failure (column 7, line 63-column 8, line 4, failure to meet threshold) of the communications device.

As concerns claim 36, the communications device as recited in claim 31, wherein the one or more handoff criteria include the communications device not communicating within a specified period of time (column 9, lines 1-8).

As concerns claim 37, the communications device as recited in claim 31, wherein the one or more handoff criteria include the communications device being out of range (column 3, lines 24-28; also power levels may drop limiting the range of the participant, meets a threshold inducing a handoff to be performed) of one or more of the plurality of communications devices.

As concerns claim 38, the communications device as recited in claim 31, wherein: the communications device is a master participant (serving station), and the particular communications device is an associate master participant (target stations).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 5, 6, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,745,034 to Wang et al. as applied above in view of GAN et al.

Wang et al. '034 do not disclose a frequency hopping sequence.

GAN et al. teach a frequency hopping protocol (see entire document).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the system of Wang et al. '034 with a frequency hopping protocol, as taught by GAN et al., in order to provide a communication protocol that is less prone to interference.

As concerns claims 6 and 21, Wang et al. discloses wherein each participant from the plurality of participants communicates with other participants during a particular time range (column 5, lines 62-66).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed November 23, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues the base stations of Wang cannot communicate with each other and therefore do not disclose the limitation of "the first participant communicating with the second participant to indicate that the second participant has been designated to perform the one or more functions if any of the one or more handoff criteria are satisfied". The examiner disagrees since the base stations can communicate with each other through the mobile devices (see col. 6, lines 58-65; col. 8, lines 8-10; col. 8, lines 24-26).

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

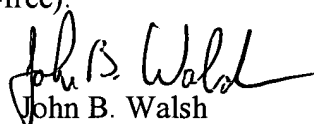
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

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the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John B. Walsh whose telephone number is 571-272-7063. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Wednesday from 5:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Zarni Maung can be reached on 571-272-3939. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John B. Walsh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2151